To draw the portrait of one whose life has been spent in comparative retirement remote from the noise and bustle of the world, is peculiarly difficult. The lineaments of such a portrait may indeed be highly beautified in themselves, but, as a combined whole they discover too much uniformity to produce a very striking effect. ~~The is of a~~ ~~yield but few~~ ~~There can be~~ ~~Those~~ ~~The vast~~ ingenuity of mankind are accustomed to admire only what is great and extraordinary in human character, and to overlook the ~~as trivial little pleasures from which flow~~ common occurrences of life. To ~~them~~ there is an intense interest attached to the hero, whose career has been marked by a continued series of victories and conquests but they can discover nothing worthy of admiration in the modest retired and useful character. ~~But~~ to the heart of sensitiveness.

bility, a character, thus unsullied by crime and untainted by ambition, is, by no means, destitute of attractions; and it is to such a heart only, the heart of feeling and of virtue, that this obituary notice will be found to possess even a tolerable degree of interest. Whoever can contemplate with satisfaction, modest, unassuming merit, whoever can view with complacency sincere and unaffected piety, and whoever can cherish with lively affection, the recollection of what is estimable in social life, will not refuse to indulge a feeling of regret at the premature exit of the Rev. John Covert, and will feel gratified to form a more intimate acquaintance with his character.

He was the son of John and Catharine Covert, and was born at Oyster Bay, Long Island, February 3d 1787.

His connections were numerous and respectable. Of the pious and amiable character of his parents, it would be difficult to speak in terms of exaggeration. His Father has been for a number of years one of the officers of the church in Rutgers Street New York.
To the intelligence, prudence, good sense and judicious management of his Mother, who watched over his early years, with affectionate solicitude and unwearied assiduity, he was principally indebted, under Providence, for the correctness of his deportment and the excellence of his example in after life. So far as the education of children depends upon maternal discipline and instruction, few were more fortunate than John Lovell.
We have few particulars of his early life. His childhood seems not

to have been checkered by any remarkable vicissitudes. When he was about nine years of age, his parents removed from Long Island to New York. When we consider that this city presents innumerable objects fitted to dazzle and to fascinate the inexperienced mind, and to foster the desire of personal consequence and personal gratification, it might have been expected that such a transition would have produced an unhappy effect upon one so young, and of course so susceptible of impression: but whatever difficulties such considerations would seem to justify, the event showed that there was really very little ground for apprehension. That calm and sedate temperament for which he was so remarkable and which rendered him less exposed to the

influence of passion and excitement — this happy temperament, seconded in its operation by parental precept and parental example, prevented those effects which might have been produced upon a constitution more warm and passionate, and less subjected to the influence of moral culture. He was, it is true, of an affectionate and social turn; but he seems not to have been so far under the influence of his feelings as to be seduced by his young companions into loose and irregular habits. On the contrary, however strong and intimate his attachments, they were immediately broken off, whenever their moral tendency threatened to become pernicious. After his removal to New York, he enjoyed few advantages for the improvement of his mind.

His Father had engaged in a grocery store, and required his assistance behind the counter. This circumstance prevented that attention to his early education which he would otherwise have received. Those advantages however which he did enjoy were well improved, and his leisure hours were assiduously devoted to mental cultivation. The Bible was a book with which he was very familiar, at an early age, and before he made any pretensions to piety.

During his childhood his parents did not anticipate the course which he was destined to pursue. They seem to have had no higher aim for their son than furnishing him with a trade, by the honest and industrious pursuit of which, he might pass

through life, in peaceful seclusion, "unknowing and unknown."

He was therefore placed with his maternal uncle, as an apprentice to the carpenters trade, when about 14 years of age. During his apprenticeship, he applied himself so faithfully and attentively, that he became well acquainted with his employment. He was destined however soon to abandon it.

About 2 years after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he became the subject of very serious impressions. What God, who acts as a sovereign, saw fit to arrest his attention, and render him sensible to the vast concerns of a future world. He first began to experience these deep and solemn impressions, under the preaching of Dr. Milledoller, for whom he, ever after, entertained not only a very high respect but a strong and increasing affection.

There was perhaps less pungency in his convictions than is sometimes exhibited; and his transition from a state of spiritual bondage into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, seemed to be gradual and almost imperceptible. Yet both of these parts might naturally have been expected, considering the regularity and correct moral deportment which had distinguished his previous life. Whatever apprehension he may have indulged, from these considerations and they undoubtedly occasioned him considerable ~~anxiety & distress and anguish~~, those, who were best acquainted with his views and feelings, entertained little doubt of the genuineness of his conversion. The evidence of this interesting fact is strong and consolatory. When this important event occurred, he was in the 18th year of

his age. He had still, however, some scruples in regard to uniting himself to the people of God, by a public profession of religion. The danger of self-deception and the responsibility of the christian character seemed to shed a deep solemnity on that public act by which the christian professes to renounce the world, and devote himself to the service of his divine master. The doctrine of election also occasioned him some uneasiness. Though the divine mercy, however, he became perfectly satisfied not only of the truth of this doctrine, but of its excellence. Though he could not comprehend the sublime and mysterious counsels of the Eternal, he was fully convinced that these counsels were the result of infinite goodness and perfect wisdom.

After these difficulties were obviated, he united himself to the church in Pratt Street, then under the pastor-

al

core of Dr Milledollar. The office of the sacred ministry now began to occupy his thoughts. He was fully enamored with the amiable and excellent Cowper, that the pulpit was the most effectual guard support and ornament of virtue, and he felt desirous of proclaiming from the sacred desk, not only the solemn sanctions of morality but the unspeakable love of Christ to a lost world. To the gratification of this desire there were numerous obstacles which appeared almost insurmountable. Being of a modest and retiring disposition, he was somewhat averse to the gaze of the public eye. His previous advantages for mental improvement had been very limited. His Trade which he had completed, was becoming a source of profit. A long and painful course of study must necessarily intervene before he could commence his ca-

hours in the vineyard of of Christ. (He must commune the midnight lamp, in searching for those treasures which lay concealed in unknown languages. His nerves must be exposed for years to the fattening influence of intense and constant application.) Difficulties of a pecuniary nature, which of all others are perhaps the most embarrassing to a noble and generous mind, were likely to attend so long and expensive a course of education, as he considered necessary to qualify him for a public teacher; and, in that, the best and most generous period of his life must be spent in perplexity, labour and self-denial, without any flattering prospect of a worldly nature to compensate for the sacrifice. Yet the affecting consideration, that thousands of intelligent, moral beings are destitute of that spiritual culture which was necessary to

prepare them for a happy immortality— this consideration was more than sufficient, in his mind, to counterbalance all the above mentioned difficulties. He therefore deliberately resolved to become a preacher of the cross, and to devote himself entirely to the benevolent object of doing good to others, as well as the sublime and concomitant object of promoting the glory of God.

Accordingly he commenced the study of the learned languages, in one of the public schools of New York. His progress in knowledge, while in attendance at this school, was very respectable. He spent upwards two years, in his preparatory studies, and entered Columbia College, one year in advance. This circumstance is of itself demonstrative of the respectability of his talents, as well as of his unwearied industry.

Of his correct and exemplary deportment in college of his punctual and satisfactory discharge of the duties assigned him, and especially of his unremitted exertion and constant application, we have the most ample testimonials. He usually rose from twelve to two O'clock, and, in the winter season, arose, before it was light, to pursue his studies. From this deleterious practice, his constitution, naturally good, was, in all probability, considerably injured and acquired that delicacy of texture which rendered it more susceptible of disease.

After the completion of his Collegiate course, at the age of about 22, he commenced, under the instruction of Dr. Miledoller, the study of Theology. This delightful period of his life he had been long and ardently anticipating. He had looked forward to it, with much the same

feelings and emotions, which swell the heart of the traveler, who, after toiling through a wilderness beset with briers and thorns, beholds, in distant perspective, some enchanting scene on which nature has lavished her richest beauties. On entering the study of Theology, he felt himself introduced to a new and more interesting order of beings than those with whom he had been conversant, during his collegiate life. The heroes and demigods of antiquity, though painted with the inimitable elegance and art of the classic pencil, and invested with all the ~~excellencies~~ which the most exalted heathen philosophy could be ~~store~~ presented to his mind, had few attractions, and he rejoiced that they were now to give place to the patriarchs and prophets,

to the disciples and apostles, to genius Christ whose character needs not the excellence of human composition to render it more worthy of veneration and love, and to the Eternal Father of spirits whose perfections enlightened reason can never scan, and the most profound piety can never sufficiently adore.

His companions in study while under the tuition of Dr Biddesdallow, and with whom he enjoyed 'sweet converse' were Messrs Blackford, Lebrun, Holmes and Blane.

At the expiration of one year, they all, except Mr Lebrun who turned his attention to the study of the law, entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton, which had just been organized for the reception of students. These young gentlemen constituted a part of the first class which belonged

to this Seminary. Many of that class have already mingled their remains with the dust, while their spirits it is fondly hoped, have again met in a state of society incapable of change and complete in happiness as it is unlimited in duration.

Mr Lovett felt himself very happily situated, while a member of the Princeton Seminary. His epistolary correspondence, at this time, abounds with warm expressions of gratitude for the numerous means he enjoyed. He however often felt, and felt deeply, the pressure of that responsibility which he was soon to assume. In one of his letters in which he enlarges on this subject and treats it in a manner worthy of its solemnity, is the following sentence, which ought not to be forgotten by those who contemplate

the assumption of the ministerial character. "To every person about to enter the sacred office the following question is, if possible, of more than infinite importance; have I experienced, in my own soul, the power of that religion which I am about to preach to others."

After completing the regular course of theological study at Princeton, he was licensed by the Presbytery of New York. His licensure took place in Oct. ~~1813~~ 1815 ~~the 26th year of his age.~~ Soon after this event he engaged in a mission to ~~North~~ Carolina. His missionary labours were severe and trying, and such as required the full exercise of that self-denying and devoted spirit which are indispensible to every minister of the gospel and more especially to the missionary of the cross. Yet, amid his toils, he experienced the kind-

ness

and benignity of an ever watchful Providence. In the land of strangers he often found those whom he could embrace as brethren, and who tendered to him the hand of friendship and affection. He was stationed at Long Hill, from whence he made frequent excursions into the neighboring district. We ~~commiserate~~ have to regret that so few of his letters, during this interesting period, have been preserved, as they would probably throw much light upon the moral and religious condition of that part of the State which was the scene of his labours.

The term of this mission having expired, he returned to the North in the the Spring of 1812, and spent the summer in New York and New Jersey. The following year he undertook a missionary tour

to the state of Georgia. While travelling through South Carolina, however, he preached in the congregations of Bethel and Indian Town, Williamsburgh District. He arrived in this District about the first of February 1817. His intention was to have proceeded to the place of his destination in Georgia, but these congregations being vacant, he was invited by the citizens to preach in each church, until the first of April, as a supply. The destitute situation of these churches, and the persuasion that "Providence pointed them out as the scene of his first labours" induced him to comply with the invitation. After spending about two months in these Churches, and receiving a second invitation to engage with them for a year longer,

he relinquished his original intention of proceeding to Georgia, and located himself in these congregations, agreeably to their urging request. It is probable they would have settled him permanently had they not previously contracted with the Rev. Robert H. James, to take charge of them at the expiration of a year. He fulfilled his engagements with these churches with fidelity and left them inspired with a high sense of his worth.

He had in the mean time received a joint call from two other congregations. These were the old Presbyterian church in Williamsburgh and Turkey Creek church. They were Independent churches, but they were destitute, and needed some one to break to them the bread of life. Viewing them

these circumstances, and being fully convinced, that the few points of difference, which separated them from his own immediate connection, ought not to debar them the privileges of the gospel, he accepted their unanimous call. They contitented the scene of his ministerial labours during the remainder of his life.

His retirement took place in April 1812. In November of the same year he was married to Mrs. ~~Mc Faddon~~ McFadgin widow of Mr. Eli ~~McFadon~~ McFadgin, and formerly Miss. Nelson. She was left, by her deceased husband, the mother of 4 children. This lady possessed an amiable disposition, was elegant in her person, conciliating in her address and ~~a large share of good~~ sensible. in her conversation, to all which was superadded the most exemplary piety. Her truly estimable character endeared her, in every res-

pect worthy of the preference with which she was honored in being selected as his bosom companion. An accession of property was one of the consequences of this marriage, which, together with his salary and patronage, placed Mr. Lovell in a state of easy competence, if not of comparative affluence.

His situation, at this time, might be considered as enviable. He was surrounded by an amiable family. An affectionate and generous people looked up to him for instruction. The cause in which he was engaged was noble, and adapted to excite the best affections of the human heart. We have reason to believe that he was comparatively happy. Yet his memory still lingered, with fondness, over the scenes of his childhood and youth; his heart was still

wrought in three hundred ties which had imbodied it from earliest infancy; and the recollection of past friendships stole over his mind with fervent emotion. His letters to his parents and other relatives, during the short period of his life which remained after his final settlement, breathe a spirit of peculiar tenderness, rendered deeply affecting, by the mournful sentiments with which they are occasionally interspersed. They abound, at the same time, with the strongest expressions of trust and confidence in a faithful and unchanging God. On one occasion, after having been disappointed of the expectation of visiting his former friends, he expressed himself in the following language. "My consolation is in the blessed promise of God, 'all things shall work together for good to

them that love God, and I trust, I do love him. And if the determinent of divine Providence grants me the happiness of seeing you another year, and if that denial should be extended to a longer period, it is my duty and my privilege, as well as yours, to say "thy will O Lord be done," and though that prohibition should even be extended, all we are called to put off this mortal, it is still an great privilege to say "the Lord gave, the Lord has taken away. Adored be the name of the Lord." It was indeed true, that Providence had determined, he should "see their faces no more." He lived only about four years, after his final settlement. But they were years of usefulness, and although the immediate fruits of his labours were not so great as sometimes crocon the

exertions of the faithful minister yet they were such as to demand the gratitude of those who enjoyed his services; and the friends of religion are permitted to indulge the hope, that the good seed which he sowed will hereafter spring up unto everlasting life, and continue to flourish through distant generations.

The last sermon which he preached was on a funeral occasion. He delivered this discourse with unusual solemnity and power. He appeared to be wrapped up in the awful subjects of death, judgment and eternal scenes, and to paint in characters of living light those glorious realities upon which he was so soon to enter.

This was on Sunday sept. 1st 1822. Four days afterwards he was suddenly taken ill. The last devotional exercise which he performed in his family was interspersed with a character of so

markable solemnity and tenderness, as if conscious that he should no more mingle his supplications and praises with the domestic circle which surrounded him.

He was taken sick on the 4th of Sept., and died on the 29th of the same month. His disease was a bilious fever, a disorder which generally proves fatal to those unaccustomed to the climate of the southern states. He appeared to be under this impression, that the disease would terminate fatally, and observed at its commencement "how necessary it is that we should be prepared to die!" During the progress and continuance of the complaint, he never exhibited the slightest appearance of alarm; but submitted with a patience and fortitude and christian resignation that was admired by all who attended him. The last week of his illness, typhus

symptoms ~~attended~~ supervened. he had a sore throat which occasioned much difficulty in swallowing, and a drowsiness approaching to stupor but no derangement of intellect. When aroused from this state he conversed rationally with that mildness and calmness which he usually manifested. He was constantly attended by two physicians, and occasionally by a friend, to whose politeness the committee are indebted for much valuable information in regard to his illness.

The two congregations, to which he had devoted his previous labours, gave the highest evidence of their respect and love for him, by their solicitude for his recovery, by every act of kindness which they could perform, by their unremitted attention to him, and by their great concern for his death. The situation of the family during his

witness was truly affecting. Mrs. Lovett was near the time of her confinement, in bad health, exercising by day and night, all the duties of a careful nurse, with the certain prospect before her of leaving one who was dearer to her than all the world.

Mrs. Lovett's confinement to the chamber of sickness and pain lasted no less than 24 days. But during this long and dreary interval, his friends have reason to believe, and to derive consolation from the thought, that his soul was cheered with the presence of an all powerful friend and that his eye was intently fixed upon those peaceful and regions which were beautiful and bright beyond the swelling flood, and beckon the dying christian to the happy shore.

Besides Mr. Lovett's numerous circle of friends, whose affections were ex-

tionate with his own, he left behind him, to lament his early exit from the stage of life, the partner of his domestic happiness and a little daughter in the 4th year of her age. ~~He left them to the care of that protecting Providence who tenderly watches over the widow and the orphan.~~ Mrs Ewart, a few weeks after his death, was again called to drink the cup of affliction, in the loss of an infant son, and shortly after that event she experienced another severe trial, in being deprived of a mother whom she tenderly loved. But that gracious Power, who tenderly watches over the widow and the orphan, was pleased to temper the exigent severity of his dispensations, by imparting to the stricken mourner the balm of heavenly consolation.

The moral and religious character of Mr Ewart was truly estimable, and it is in this view, that his friends will delight to contemplate him

so long as piety and virtue found an advocate in their bosoms.
As a preacher of the gospel, he was mild, conciliating and persuasive in his manner; and neat, as well as forcible, in his style. He possessed considerable fluency of expression, and vividness of sentiment, and, generally, after thoroughly studying his sermons, preached them with the apposite use of a short abstract of their contents lying before him.
His epistolary style possesses considerable variety. It is in general, however, easy and simple, resembling, in some respects, the Epistolary style of Cowper.
As a scholar he was respectable, his talents being rather of the solid and useful rather than the brilliant and showy kind.
As a man conversant in society, and engaged in intercourse with others, his character was truly estimable.

His temperament was ~~of the~~ most happy and presented a combination of qualities the best adopted to secure his own happiness, and procure the esteem and affection of others. He was uniformly calm and unruffled; never greatly elevated or depressed by the vicissitudes of life. His bosom was capable of strong and generous friendships. He was kind and affectionate, in his domestic intercourse. Those who were best acquainted with him are best qualified to appreciate his worth as a man; his fidelity constancy and affection as a friend; and his meekness, unpretending modesty and unaffected devotion, as a Christian. That dispensation of Providence which has removed him from society and from the embrace of his friends, is deeply mysterious; but it does not become short-sighted man to call in question the dealings of

Sabbath. The best and most appropriate use, ~~use~~ which can be made of so painful an event, is to commemorate his virtues and prepare for that solemn and momentous hour which we trust has opened to him the portals of everlasting day.

Committee { Nicholas Roberson
James H. Johnston
Wm J. Wilson

All that is inclosed in parentheses & more more ought to be left out in transcribing

1787
26
1813

James